



Council of European Employers
of the Metal, Engineering and
Technology-based industries



IndustriAll-CEEMET statement on the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome

On 25 March 2017, the European Union will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome that created the European Economic Community (EEC) – the common market – and more importantly set the foundations of today's European Union. This anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome marks a key opportunity to celebrate the benefits that the European Union brings to its members, enterprises, workers and citizens and to show our views for reinvigorating the European project.

70 years of peace and democracy

The European Union has contributed to maintaining the longest ever period of peace in Europe. The rule of law, democracy, human rights, the single market and the Charter of Fundamental rights must not be taken for granted, by generations; young and old. We all need to develop better ways of communicating to all European citizens and informing them of the values and benefits the European Union offers for all.

A region of more than 500 million citizens that have lived in peace and democracy for 70 years and that over 60 years developed the biggest Single Market in the world supporting growth and jobs - the European Union is today under unprecedented political and economic pressure.

The economic situations in the member states still differ for many reasons, which go hand in hand with diverging individual circumstances of European citizens. We face a challenge to create employment and social stability in every member state. We have to work to continue to reduce inequalities and increase opportunities for all citizens, to participate in the economic prosperity the EU has helped to create, and to benefit from -sustainable- social security systems. We also have to prepare European workers and especially our next generations to be fit for the challenges ahead of us and use globalisation and digitalisation as a driver for new and better jobs.

Now is the time to stand together and support our European project, to make it a success story for the next 60 years and beyond. In a world where some forms of populism try to (re-)erect physical and mental walls, it is our responsibility to stand up for our model of freedom and for our common values. We must work hand in hand with our partner countries on new technologies, joint technological standards and a common infrastructure. We should concentrate our efforts on growth, innovation and more inclusive prosperity for all. These are the prerequisites for crisis-proof, future-proof and well-paid jobs.

The industry and the European Union

The metal and electrical engineering industries are at the heart Europe's industrial base, which contributes to the wealth and wellbeing of entire societies. Europe is the cradle of the manufacturing industry and has been at the forefront of industrial revolutions and technological innovations. The MET industries in Europe directly provide over 13 million jobs.

For the companies and the workers of the MET industries, a functioning Single Market which combines economic interests with a robust and fair social dimension is of crucial importance, enabling people,

services, goods and capital to move more freely. The Single Market refers to the EU as one territory without internal borders and unnecessary barriers.

EU policies are a key asset to coping with the enormous challenges we face today, such as globalisation, the new industrial age of digitalisation, the demographic shift with an ageing workforce all over Europe and climate change. Meeting these challenges has to be combined with improved social and economic cohesion for those who are or who feel left behind. Many things can be done to unlock greater potential from the European Union when we keep on working together. Where they still exist, it is important to address inequalities in labour markets to avoid social exclusion and to contribute to more inclusive prosperity.

Industry makes a difference - Social Partners can make a difference

Europe needs a new technology-neutral integrated approach to industrial policy, facilitating the digital transformation of industry and the transition to a low-carbon economy as solid pillar for the Future of Europe. With the right environment, our companies and their skilled workforces can deliver the solutions to technological, societal, environmental and economic challenges ahead.

CEEMET and industriAll Europe are strongly committed to contributing to the discussion on the Future of Europe as we firmly believe in the European Union and consider industrial competitiveness a basis for a social market economy and good employment. After 10 years of economic stagnation as result of the financial and economic crisis, private and public investment must be promoted to support growth and employment and to support the necessary transition in the industry.

Collective bargaining is a fundamental component of national industrial relations in most European countries and the most common process for employee and employer's representatives – the social partners – to regulate working life. Autonomous negotiations between mandated social partners, including on remuneration and working conditions are at the heart of *social protection* in many Member States

European social partners have a fundamental role which is even enshrined in the EU Treaty. It will be crucial to find common answers to challenges such as the ageing of the population, the increasing digitalisation, the new industrial age, the need of new skills. Sectoral social partners are close to the interests of the workers and companies they represent and therefore are in a perfect position to deal with these challenges. Our joint statement on digitalisation and the world of work of December 2016 shows our determination to shape the digitalisation of industry rather than to be driven by it.

The future of Europe will be decided now

Many views exist for the model of a renewed European Union, including the 5 scenarios presented in the European Commission's White Paper on the 'Future of Europe'. The decision will be taken by citizens and governments. We deeply hope that the discussion on the White Paper is seen as a chance to refresh and reinvigorate our European project after an open discussion with joint decisions at the end that lead to a new acceptance of this unique model amongst all Europeans.

We ask the European people to keep manufacturing at heart when making their decisions. All resilient economies have a strong industrial base, and Europe needs to create the environment to invest in both production and employees. As the representatives of employees and employers in the MET sector, industriAll Europe and CEEMET will take part in the debates and discussions that will be organised in the coming months on the Future of Europe.

ABOUT

[CEEMET](#)

The **Council of European Employers of the Metal, Engineering and Technology-based industries** represents the employers' interests of the metal, engineering and technology-based industries. Through its national member organisations it represents 200 000 companies across Europe. The vast majority of them are SMEs, providing over 35 million jobs of direct and indirect employment.



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